



**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WESTERN REGION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**



OCTOBER 22, 2002

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Bronze Medal Awards: James Campbell, Andy Edman, Kevin Schrab, Larry Dunn, Jeffrey Walker, Jason Burks, Randall Weatherly, Marilu Trainor, Timothy Barker, Joel Cline, Thomas Niziol, and Randall Graham received a Bronze Medal Award for organizing and leading the National Weather Service Olympic team in the creation of the first public/private/academic partnership to provide weather support to the 2002 Olympics.

WFO Salt Lake City, UT - For an extraordinary effort to support a first time partnership between the NWS, private sector, and academia for weather forecasting services during the 2002 Olympics.

WFO Phoenix, AZ - For developing a partnership with the private sector to collect critical data to improve weather forecasts with wide-ranging economic benefits.

WFO Billings, MT - For providing life saving warnings and enhanced public service during the prolonged severe weather episode of the Summer of 2001.

Northwest River Forecast Center, Portland - For implementation of the NWS River Forecast System across the Pacific Northwest Columbia River Basin.

Please join me in congratulating our coworkers for their dedication and for a job well done!

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

STATEMENT OF THE WEEK: This week's statement of the week is a marine weather statement (MWS) written by forecaster Ryan Walbrun of WFO San Francisco Bay Area. The MWS was one in a series of such statements which highlighted a potential hazard in the surf zone, after a long period of benign conditions. Great job Ryan and WFO San Francisco Bay Area!

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MARINE WEATHER STATEMENT

November 21, 2002

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NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SAN FRANCISCO CA
915 PM PDT FRI OCT 18 2002

...HIGH ENERGY WAVES TO AFFECT AREA BEACHES THIS WEEKEND...

AN EARLY SEASON STORM IN THE GULF OF ALASKA HAS GENERATED HIGH ENERGY WAVES OVER THE OFFSHORE WATERS THAT WILL ARRIVE ALONG THE NORTHERN AND CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COAST BEGINNING LATE TONIGHT AND CONTINUE THROUGH THE WEEKEND. THE SURF ZONE HAS BEEN TRANQUIL FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AND THIS WILL BE THE FIRST PERIOD OF POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS WAVE ACTIVITY FOR THIS WINTER SEASON.

AS OF 9 PM FRIDAY EVENING THE OFFSHORE BUOYS...SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES NORTHWEST OF POINT REYES...WERE REPORTING SEAS BETWEEN 10 AND 13 FEET WITH 20 TO 25 SECOND PERIODS. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MODELS FORECAST THE WAVES TO ARRIVE ALONG THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST DURING THE DAY SATURDAY WITH HEIGHTS UP TO 10 FEET AT 20 SECONDS.

THE WAVE HEIGHTS ARE NOT EXPECTED TO BE SPECTACULAR AND SHOULD HAVE MINIMAL IMPACT FOR BOATS ON THE OPEN SEA. HOWEVER DUE TO THE LONG PERIOD LENGTHS OF THE WAVES...THEY WILL BE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS FOR PEOPLE IN THE SURF ZONE.

PERSONS OBSERVING THE OCEAN FROM ROCKS AND NEARBY STRUCTURES CAN BE WASHED AWAY BY POWERFUL WAVES. PLEASE EXERCISE CAUTION NEAR THE SURF ZONE. MARINERS AND PEOPLE WITH COASTAL INTERESTS SHOULD STAY TUNED TO NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR THE LATEST WEATHER INFORMATION.

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WALBRUN

Western States Community Awareness and Emergency Response (CAER)

Conference Addressed: Craig Schmidt of MSD gave a briefing to about 200 attendees of a Western States CAER Conference in Concord, California. The audience consisted of state and local emergency management personnel, law enforcement officials, public health agents, and other people involved in emergency mitigation. Craig's talk centered on all-hazards NOAA Weather Radio (NWR), and how the NWR system can help emergency officials get the word out in times of crisis. He also highlighted the partnerships between various federal, state, and local groups that have resulted from the Rural Utility Service/USDA grant program and other cooperator projects, such as the one recently installed on nearby Mt. Diablo. Afterward, he demonstrated different NWR receivers with the upgraded VIP voice playing on the new transmitter, which could be clearly heard even inside the hotel. Many conference attendees commented on the improvement in the overall NWR program (voice and

expansion) over the past couple of years, and stated that they would be contacting their local office to learn more about partnering with the NWS in disseminating all-hazards information.

HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION

Hydrology "Best Practices" Web Page: HCSD is adding a new link to their Web page (<http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/hsd/index.htm>) titled "Hydro Best Practices". The intent of this page is to facilitate sharing of ideas related to the hydrology program between offices. If your office has presentations, ideas, papers, or anything related to the hydro program that could be of interest to other offices in the region, please send them to michelle.schmidt@noaa.gov so they can be added to this new Web page.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

Intermountain Weather Workshop: The Ninth Annual Workshop on Weather Prediction in the Intermountain West will be held on November 7, 2002 at the Huntsman Cancer Institute on University of Utah campus. Workshop details and agenda are available at www.met.utah.edu. The Auditorium seats comfortably more people than have registered, so you can still come, even if you didn't register by the official deadline of October 18.

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

KWO-37 NWR Relocation: The WFO Los Angeles, Mount Wilson (KWO-37) NWR has been relocated to Mount Lukens, California. RMS Joe Lachacz, ESA Gary Strickland, SFT Jim MacLellan, and NWR Regional Field Team member Doug Sherrick (TFX) performed the difficult NWR transmitter and antenna system relocation.

Planning Meeting for Radiosonde Replacement System (RRS) Deployment of Operational Acceptance Test (OAT) at WFO SLC: RMS Jack Lauritzen, WRH Jim McClain, and WFO Salt Lake City (SLC) ESA Gregory Wallace attended an RRS Deployment Planning meeting during the week of October 15, 2002 in Silver Spring. The meeting focused on several areas such as finalizing the utilization of the WFO SLC OAT property with the SLC Airport Authority; determining the means of balloon release from either a Low Bay inflation building or Balloon Inflation and Launching System (BILS); planning the Radiosonde Observing Information System (RSOIS) installation prior to RRS deployment; ensuring proper conduit availability for fibre optic cable; resolving lightning protection issues; and staff maintenance training. A meeting will be scheduled with staff from WFO SLC to resolve and push forward with some of the above deployment issues.

Outstanding Teamwork: Jim MacLellan was the project lead on the newly established Oakland Upper Air site. Jim and the entire team did an outstanding job of planning, establishing, and completing the move of the Oakland Upper Air to the new location. The team consisted of Dean Prowker, Tom Page, Randy Miller, Randy Reynolds, Lee Jenson, Doug Swann, Mike Schlosser, Steve Veek, Jack Lauritzen, and Jim McClain.

Training Lesson Plan: Rich Anderson has developed a WR Safety & Health Program Implementation and Training Lesson Plan (which includes several tips and a step-by-step approach to ensuring that each office will have all required actions completed prior to submitting the Annual Safety Program Certification Report). These seven lessons, if completed, will ensure that all i's are dotted and t's crossed in order to ensure that the WFO's Annual Safety Program Certification Report is complete and that your office is in compliance with EHB-15. The first two lessons were sent, via e-mail, to each office. The following five lessons will be distributed approximately every two weeks.